

AMENDMENT TO THE TITLE:

The Applicant requests that the following title be substituted for the original title:

APPARATUS FOR FEEDING ZIPPER WITH
SLIDERS TO PACKAGING MACHINE

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

A. The Applicant requests that the following paragraph be substituted for the paragraph that begins on page 10 at line 25 and ends on page 11 at line 4:

In region 34 of FIG. 2, the hatched strips represent heat sealing of the bottom film 16 to the confronting face of a section of the closure strip 8. On each side of those heat seals, the top film 30 is sealed to the bottom film 16 along respective seal zones in the shape of square brackets. Each bracket-shaped seal zone comprises a linear seal zone 48 placed between the closure strip 8 and a respective pocket 20 and a pair of contiguous seal zones 50 and 50' extending from the ends of seal zone 48 in a transverse direction away from the closure strip, but only part way along the respective sides of the respective pocket 20. Thus, at this stage the top film is not sealed to the closure strip and is not sealed to a majority of the peripheral region surrounding each pocket 20.

B. The Applicant requests that the following paragraph be substituted for the paragraphs that begin on page 4 at line 10 and end on page 8 at line 1:

One aspect of the invention is a system comprising a packaging machine, a zipper processing machine, and a zipper

material that travels first through the zipper processing machine and then through the packaging machine, wherein: the zipper material comprises a first zipper strip interlocked with a second zipper strip; the packaging machine comprises a joining station whereat a respective portion of the first zipper strip is joined to a respective portion of a packaging material during a first portion of each work cycle, and means for advancing the respective portion of the packaging material during a second portion but not the first portion of each work cycle, each advance being equal in distance to N package lengths, where N is a positive integer greater than unity; and the zipper processing machine comprises a slider insertion device upstream of the joining station and a zipper accumulator for accumulating some of the zipper material in a zone between the slider insertion device and the joining station while a portion of the zipper material at the joining station is stationary.